

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-2 and 4-16 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s), as well as consideration of the information disclosure statement.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-13 are amended for non-statutory reasons, such as to correct one or more informalities, and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. 6,310,589 (Nishigaki) in view of U.S. 2003/0214242 (Berg-johansen). Further, claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Loughlin in view of U.S. 5,291,557 (Davis). Claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nishigaki and Berg-johansen in view of U.S. 6,469,455 (Inoue). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2 and 4-16 are patentable over Nishigaki, Berg-johansen and Inoue for at least the following reasons.

The rejected claims are patentable over Nishigaki, Berg-johansen and Inoue at least because those references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 9 and 12, which requires for example (illustrative emphasis provided):

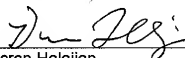
an amplifier having a first input connected to the first current path, a second input connected to a second current path, and an output connected to a controlling connection of the driving transistor.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9 and 12 are allowable. In addition, claims 2, 4-8, 10-11 and 13-16 are allowable at least

because they depend from independent claims 1, 9 and 12, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 30, 2007

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